

New Houston area codes to affect JSC phones

By Karen Schmidt

Three numerals-281-are soon expected to affect JSC in a variety of ways, but employees can begin now to prepare themselves for the changes.

The Texas Public Utilities Commission recently voted to split area codes in the Houston area. This split requires all phones outside Houston's Beltway 8 loop—including JSC—to change to the new area code 281.

"We are trying to help employees make this change as painless as possible," said Don White of the Information Technology Office. "If employees prepare early for the change, the transition will be much smoother."

The new area codes will become effective Nov. 2 but employees will have until May 3 before the 713 area code is eliminated outside Houston's outer loop. During this transition, a phone in the new 281 area can be reached by dialing either the 713 or 281 area code. Local calls to numbers within the 281 and 713 areas will be accessible by dialing the seven digit number. Beginning May 3, the ten-digit number will be required when calling across the 281/713 area code boundary.

Long distance toll calls to JSC can be made using either the 713 or 281 area code until

May 1997. After May 3, the only way to reach a JSC phone from outside the 281 area will be to use the 281 area code.

White said that employees can begin now to prepare for the new area code. Stationery and business cards should be ordered with the new area code. Speed dial numbers on phones, fax machines and modems will need to be reprogrammed to reflect the new area code. Employees should notify customers, international partners, vendors, suppliers, business associates and out of state friends and relatives of the pending area code change.



Russian cosmonaut Kondakova joins STS-84

Veteran Russian Cosmonaut Elena Kondakova has been named as a mission specialist for STS-84, joining six astronauts already named to *Atlantis'* 1997 flight to dock with Russia's Mir Space Station.

Kondakova, an engineer with RSC Energia in Russia, currently holds the single space flight endurance record for a woman, having spent 169 days in space as part of the Mir 17 crew from October 1994 to March 1995. That record will be surpassed by U.S. Astronaut Shannon Lucid on Sept. 7. She will join STS-84 Commander Charlie Precourt, Pilot Eileen Collins and fellow Mission Specialists Carlos Noriega, Edward Lu, Jean-Francois Clervoy of the European Space Agency and Michael Foale.

Foale will be launched aboard

Atlantis for a four and a half month stay on Mir. Jerry Linenger will return to Earth on board *Atlantis* at the conclusion of his stay on Mir as part of the STS-84 crew. Linenger will be launched to the Mir in January 1996 aboard *Atlantis* as part of the STS-81 crew.

As part of the Mir 17 crew, Kondakova served as flight engineer. Highlights of that mission included the first rendezvous of *Discovery* with Mir during STS-63 and the arrival of the Mir-18 crew that included the first American on board Mir, former astronaut Norman Thagard. Kondakova becomes the third Russian cosmonaut to fly on the shuttle as a mission specialist following Sergei Krikalev on STS-60 and Vladimir Titov on STS-63.

Three get new positions

Three JSC employees will take on new roles in the Space Shuttle Program Office and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

Space Shuttle Program Manager Tommy Holloway has named Bill Harris manager of the Space Shuttle Program Safety and Mission Assurance.

In this new role, Harris will assist Holloway in complying with agency safety and mission assurance policy and procedures, evaluate program risks and ensure establishment of contractor S&MA processes. He will provide program-level oversight of the space shuttle S&MA programs to ensure activity compatibility with program S&MA strategies

and policies, to maintain knowledge of program risk issues, and provide focus for program support to independent assessments which may be performed by external organizations.

Chief Financial Officer Wayne Draper has named John Beall the Deputy Chief Financial Officer. Beall will assume this role on Sept. 15 and be located in Bldg. 1.

Gail Hammond will assume the position of chief of the Financial Management Division. Hammond is transferring to JSC from NASA Headquarters, Office of Space Flight, where she is currently deputy director of resources management. Hammond will be in Bldg. T585.

JSC home page now eaiser to use

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news media, business people and employees.

"Welcome to the JSC Web," reads the new main page. "Please let us help you find what you're looking for quickly and easily. Select a category from the links above. If we haven't anticipated your information needs, please try any of the other categories or the Search function."

Designed by the Public Affairs Office's Information Services Team, with help from the Business and Information Systems Directorate's graphics and Internet groups, the pages went on line the day before the second annual JSC Open House. Top-level pages include few graphics in an effort to provide speedy file transfers even for visitors

using telephone lines and modems.

New features of the JSC Web include a virtual tour of JSC, using "clickable" aerial photographs of the center, and a clickable JSC organization chart featuring information about each directorate and office, as well as biographies of senior staff members.

The Information Services Team is seeking comments and additional information to use on the Web site and in its features, especially in the area of the virtual tour. Organizations with suggestions should contact Kelly Humphries, the PAO Information Services Team lead, or curator, Terry McDonald of Hernandez Engineering, by clicking on their names at the bottom of the pages.

Blaha ready for first crew exchange

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looking at Sept. 14 as the launch date because of a range conflict with an Air Force Delta 2 rocket on Sept. 12, currently set to carry a Global Positioning System satellite into orbit. However, the Mission Management Team also was keeping tabs this week on Hurricane Eduoard, and a series of storms swirling behind it out in the Atlantic, as they evaluated launch dates.

But *Atlantis'* six astronauts were clearly upbeat and optimistic as they ran through their dress rehearsal procedures during the week at KSC.

"I think what we are about to do here is pretty exciting," Blaha said

during a question and answer session with reporters at Launch Pad 39A. "A crew exchange in orbit, when you think about it, is incredible, and this is the first crew that is going to do that."

Readdy, who is about to begin his third space flight, said the STS-79 mission holds promises and lessons for future space endeavors by NASA and other nations.

"We always learn something new every time we go fly," Readdy said. "We are learning something about operating a space station and we have to develop these techniques a little bit at a time in order to get an operational capability."

Mars explorers arrive at KSC, launch this fall

Mars Global Surveyor and Mars Pathfinder, a pair of NASA spacecraft to be launched to the red planet this fall, have arrived at the Kennedy Space Center to begin preparations for launch.

The Mars Global Surveyor will be placed in orbit around the planet. It holds a set of six instruments to study the planet's surface, atmosphere, gravitational and magnetic fields. The Mars Pathfinder will be deployed through the Martian atmosphere to land on the planet's surface and will deploy a small instrumented rover to investigate the terrain surrounding the spacecraft. Together, the Mars Pathfinder and rover will investigate the geology and elemental composition of the Martian rocks and soil, as well as the Martian atmosphere and surface weather.

Mars Global Surveyor, weighing 2,315 pounds was off loaded and taken to the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility located in the KSC Industrial Area to begin launch preparations. During the time Mars Global Surveyor will be at the PHSF, it will undergo final instrument functional tests and electrical system testing, the batteries and thermal insulation will be installed, the spacecraft will be fueled with its control propellants, and it will be mated to its solid propellant "upper stage" which is the Delta third stage booster.

Launch of Mars Global Surveyor is scheduled for Nov. 6. The spacecraft will arrive at the planet in September 1997 to begin a mission that will last one Martian year, or 687 Earth days.

The integration of the four Mars Pathfinder elements—the cruise stage, aeroshell, lander and the small micro-rover known as "Sojourner"—will begin with installation of the rover on one of the four petals of the lander. The aeroshell which surrounds and protects the lander will be installed and parachutes will be attached. This assembled entry vehicle will be mated to the cruise stage and before going to the launch pad, the completed spacecraft will be mated to the upper stage booster.

Launch is scheduled to occur on Dec. 2. Landing on Mars is planned for July 4, 1997. On the planet surface, the mission is planned to last about one month.



Above: Technicians remove the compact Mars Global Surveyor from its shipping crate at the Payload Hazardous Servicing Facility at Kennedy Space Center. The Mars Global Surveyor is expected to launch in November with arrival to Mars orbit slated for September 1997. Below: Engineers from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory remove the protective wrapping from the Mars Pathfinder lander at KSC. The Pathfinder will launch in December and land on Mars about July 1997.



Lucid to bring home lessons learned

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Lucid hopes to be able to bring back to Earth some of the lessons she has learned while on Mir.

"My family would be surprised at the patience I've developed and I hope that I can bring some of the patience that I've developed back home with me," Lucid said.

Lucid's Mir 21 crewmates, Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Flight Engineer Yuri Usachev, along with French Cosmonaut Claudie Andre-Deshays, will leave Sept. 2, leaving Lucid with the Mir 22 crew until *Atlantis* docks with the station in mid-September. Lucid said she is happy to see her teammates of five

months returning to their families, but also sad to see them go.

"I really enjoyed working with Yuri and Yuri," Lucid said. "I could not ask for two better people to spend a long-duration space flight with."

Lucid also continued looking toward the future.

"I think it would be an outstanding thing for the different nations of the Earth to work together toward a common goal of going to Mars," Lucid said. "From a scientific and technological standpoint, I don't see any great show stoppers. From an individual standpoint, from individuals working together, I can see absolutely no problem."

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